

MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

FY Project Plan

Washington MRIP Consultant's Review Recommendation for Sampling of Minor Ports

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1. Overview

1.1. Background

Comprehensive and sound management of recreational finfish fisheries in Washington State requires information on catch, effort, and stock-specific fishery impacts necessary to meet established conservation and allocation mandates. These data are federally required to open and manage recreational fisheries, especially considering the need to limit and monitor impacts to threatened species. For the Washington ocean Marine Catch Areas (Areas 1-4), these critical fishery information needs are met through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Ocean Sampling Program (OSP).

To produce estimates of marine fish catch and effort in ocean Marine Catch Areas (for the “private boat” and “charter boat” modes), WDFW employs a procedure based on data collected by an access point intercept survey. The OSP survey is designed to provide both total effort and catch per unit effort (CPUE). These data are used to generate estimates of total catch and effort by Marine Catch Area, month, and fishing mode which are provided to the Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN , www.recfin.org).

Currently, ocean fishery sampling occurs in all major ocean access ports during “peak” effort months, May through September. Small coastal access sites are not sampled, and effort and catch are assumed to be insignificant; these sites include Nahcotta, Bay Center, South Bend, Smith Creek, and Tokeland in Willapa Bay and Ocean Shores, Johns River, and Hoquiam 28th Street launch in Grays Harbor.

Boat effort from the Grays Harbor sites is included in the total effort count for Westport on all sampled days as boats launching from these sites must pass by the Westport exit count site. These vessels are included in the effort count, and target trip composition and catch per boat is assumed identical to sampled Westport vessels. These assumptions have never been tested, but in this way, catch and effort are estimated for these sites.

Boat effort from the Willapa Bay sites is not included in the total effort count for any sampled sites, as they are not visible. Therefore, any ocean catch and effort originating from these sites is ignored and excluded from estimates of ocean catch and effort.

This project proposes to sample all above-listed minor ports from July – September, 2012 with the objectives of:

- a) Confirming effort counts from Grays Harbor ports
- b) Comparing ocean target trip and catch composition from Grays Harbor minor ports to Westport
- c) Generating estimates of ocean effort and catch from Willapa Bay minor ports

1.2. Project Description

The proposed project implements one of the recommended actions resulting from the MRIP's 2010 review of the WDFW OSP. During that review, the MRIP consultants (experts in sampling design, statistics, and estimation methods) recommended specific actions that OSP could implement to improve total ocean catch estimation. The major category of improvement recommended by the MRIP consultants was to address under-coverage issues. Our proposed project requests funds to continue implementing one of these recommendations, as detailed below.

Work on this project would begin April 1, 2012, and cease on September 30, 2012, or later periods covering these months depending on funding date. A final report completed by June 30, 2013.

1.3. Objectives

To sample in all minor ocean access sites during peak effort months, July – September. This study would address the question of whether minor access sites constitute significant effort or catch in the Washington ocean fisheries.

1.4. References

Evaluation of Washington ocean recreational catch and effort from minor ocean access sites near the Washington coast.

2. Methodology

2.1. Methodology

A pressure matrix for site selection will be developed starting April 1, 2012 similar to the matrix used for site selection in WDFW's Puget Sound Sampling Program. Sites will be grouped geographically (Group 1: Nahcotta, Bay Center, and South Bend; Group 2: Tokeland and Smith Creek; Group 3: Ocean Shores, 28th Street launch, John's River) and sites within each group will be selected for sampling using the pressure matrix within a calendar month. One sampler will be assigned to each group of sites and stationed in the location likely to result in the least amount of personal vehicle mileage.

Sampling design will be identical to that currently used by the OSP in major coastal ports (documentation is available).

2.2. Regions

2.3. Geographic Coverage

Washington's minor ocean access points, Nahcotta, Bay Center, South Bend , Tokeland, Smith Creek, Oc

2.4. Temporal Coverage

April 2012 - December 2012 (sampling during July - September)

2.5. Frequency

See Sampling Methodology

2.6. Unit of Analysis

Vessel based survey (private and party/charter)

2.7. Collection Mode

Intercept Survey

3. Communications Plan

3.1. Internal

Internal communication will consist of a monthly email report distributed to the project team during the sampling period detailing number of boats sampled by general activity (fishing or non-fishing) and anglers encountered, and whether or not fish were observed. The internal project team will also receive a copy of the catch estimates provided externally as well as the final report (described below).

3.2. External

Monthly reporting to the MRIP Operations Team will occur through the MRIP online reporting system reporting activity on the project and sampling results as described above. In addition, catch estimates will be included in the standard estimates provided monthly to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for incorporation into the RecFIN database; these estimates will be provided within 30 days of the end of each month (eg. by August 31, 2012, for July 2012). A final report on the project will be submitted to the Operations Team by December 31, 2012.

4. Assumptions and Constraints

4.1. New Data

Yes

4.2. Track Costs

4.3. Funding Vehicle

Pacific RecFIN Grant

4.4. Data Resources

No data is required from NOAA. All data will be collected by OSP.

4.5. Other Resources

Additional samplers will be needed to be hired and trained. More time from existing staff will also be required for sampler supervision, data entry, error checking, data analysis, and report writing.

4.6. Regulations

No regulatory changes are required.

4.7. Other

We are assuming funding will be available in time to hire, train, and begin sampling in July 2012. We propose integrating funding for this proposal into the 2012-2013 WDFW RecFIN grant

5. Risk

5.1. Project Risk

Table 1: Project Risk

Risk Description	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	Risk Mitigation Approach
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6. Final Deliverables

6.1. Additional Reports

Intergration of the minor port catch and effort into the state major port sampling catch estimates

6.2. New Data Sets

New Data Sets for Minor Ports previously only sampled infrequently

6.3. New Systems

7. Project Leadership

7.1. Project Leader and Members

Table 2: Project Members

Project Role	Name	Organization	Title
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8. Project Estimates

8.1. Project Schedule

Table 3: Project Schedule - Major Tasks and Milestones

#	Schedule Description	Planned Start	Planned Finish	Prerequisites	Milestones
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8.2. Cost Estimates

Table 4: Cost Estimates

Project Need	Cost Description	Date Needed	Estimated Cost
TOTAL			\$0.00